

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 EUR-10 RSR-01 /053 W
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R 121421 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7100

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 2643

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEOR, PFOR, AL, GR

SUBJ: GREEK- ALBANIAN RELATIONS

1. AT MARCH 9 FAREWELL DINNER IN HONOR OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO ALBANIA, GREEK MINISTER FRANTZESKAKIS EXPLAINED THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TASKS GIVEN HIM BY HIS FONMIN WILL BE TO VERIFY EXISTENCE OF GREEK MINORITY IN ALBANIA. HE RECALLED THAT BEFORE THE WAR, THERE WERE MORE THAN 250,000 GREEKS LIVING IN THE NORTHERN EPIRUS AREA WHICH WAS GIVEN TO ALBANIA BY THE 1912 COUNCIL OF AMBASSADORS. FROM HIS OWN TRAVELS TO ALBANIA IN 1961, HE COULD CONFIRM THE EXISTANCE OF GREEK COLONIES WITH THEIR OWN SCHOOLS, ETD. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THE NUMBER OF GREEKS HAS BEEN REDUCED TO SOME 60,000. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE DAY WHEN POLITICAL SITUATION MAY MAKE REVIVAL OF GREECE'S CLAIM TO THE NORTHERN EPIRUS PRACTICAL, FRANTZESKAKIS HAS BEEN ASKED TO TRAVEL TO ALL THE VILLAGES THROUGHOUT THE AREA AND VERIFY THE EXISTANCE OF A GREEK MAJORITY OR WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.

2. ON THE MORE GENERAL QUESTION OF THE DECISION TO END THE STATE OF WAR IN 1971 AND ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ALBANIA, FRANTZESKAKIS SAID THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN MUCH DISPUTED. WHILE THE PREDECESSOR REGIME COULD NOT MAKE PEACE BECAUSE OF POPULAR FEELINGS OVER THE NORTHERN EPIRUS ISSUE, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS NOT SO CONSTRAINED BY PUCLIC OPINION. IT DECIDED THAT IS INTERESTS COULD BE PROTECTED

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MORE EFFECTIVELY BY HAVING A MISSION IN TIRANA. AVORING CONFIRM THIS

ASSERTION

WITH CONTACTS IF UCR. IF TRUE, WHETHER FRENTE GETS 48 PERCENT
OR 52 PERCENT BECOMES RATHER ACADEMIC.

3. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY ANNOUNCED AT 12:30 THAT
LANUSSE WOULD PERSONALLY ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF ELECTION DURING
COURSE OF DAY.

LODGE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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